



LUTON EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

For the Year 1922.

STAFF.

<i>School Medical Officer</i>	...	W. ARCHIBALD, M.D., D.P.H.
<i>Oculist</i> ... ..	...	M. HINE, M.D.
<i>Dental Surgeon</i> ...	...	J. J. MARTIN, L.D.S.
<i>School Nurses</i>...	...	{ MISS A. PECK. MRS. TOOGOOD.
<i>Clerk</i> ... ..	...	MR. HAWKES.

PERCY J. CARTER,
Education Secretary.

Luton Education Committee.



OFFICE OF SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,
WALLER STREET,

LUTON,

25TH JANUARY, 1923.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LUTON EDUCATION
COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Annual Report on the Medical Examination of School Children in the Borough, I would gratefully acknowledge the courteous consideration you have shown me during the year.

It gives me much pleasure to record the able manner in which the School Nurses, Attendance Officers, and the Head Teachers in the various Schools have assisted me in the task of Medical Inspection. For economical reasons the Report has been condensed as much as possible, and the Tables set out are in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM ARCHIBALD.

REPORT FOR 1922.

During the year 1922, no special conditions affecting the health of the school children made themselves manifest. Measles and Chickenpox were responsible for a considerable loss of attendance during the autumn, but in no case was it necessary to apply school closure. The year has been remarkable for the small number of notifiable infectious diseases, indeed it is one of the lowest years on record. Only 12 children attending the local schools suffered from Diphtheria, and 7 from Scarlet Fever. The close co-operation between the Education Department and the Public Health Department has yielded excellent results, and the following Tables, as designed by the Board of Education, set out the results of the school medical work. These Tables require little explanation, as they are in most cases self-explanatory.

Table I shows the number of children inspected during the period 1st January to 31st December of the same year. In Section A of the Table are given the figures for the Routine Inspections, that is the children in the three age groups examined at the schools during the year. These are entrants, leavers, and the children attaining the age of 8 years during 1922. Section B of the Table records the number of special inspections made during the year. This includes cases referred to the Clinic by Head Teachers, Attendance Officers, School Nurses, &c., and also the re-examination of certain cases referred from Routine Inspection.

Last year time did not permit of the examination of the 8-year-old group, as in October, 1921, it was necessary to classify and medically examine all the known cases of mental deficiency in the Borough, and to select candidates for the Special School, which was opened in October, 1921. This year the three groups have been completed.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1ST JANUARY
TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1922.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Age	ENTRANTS.					LEAVERS.				Grand Total.
		4	5	6	Others	Total	12	13	14	Total	
Boys	...	27	253	114	34	428	314	42	7	363	1203
Girls	...	23	260	105	46	434	320	54	3	377	1166
Totals	...	50	513	219	80	862	634	96	10	740	2369

INTERMEDIATE—Age 8.

Boys.	Girls.	Total.
412	355	767

B.—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

				Special Cases.	No. of children re-examined.
Boys	...	...	...	657	26
Girls	...	...	...	1016	39
Totals	...	...	...	1673	65

C.—Total number of individual children inspected by the Medical Officer, whether as Routine or Special Cases (no child being counted more than once in one year.)

No. of Individual Children Inspected 4107

Table II is a summary of all the defects found in the course of Medical Examination of the 2369 children inspected during the year. Ringworm, particularly of the head, still shows an undue prevalence, and is responsible for a large amount of the non-attendance at school. An X Ray outfit would do much to shorten the absence from school, but at present it is impossible to obtain this form of treatment.

It will also be observed that 188 children have been noted as showing evidence of malnutrition. In every case, enquiries were made as to home conditions, and while the Education Feeding Centres were open, any deserving cases were furnished with meals. Most of these 188 children were constitutionally weakly, and were not suffering from lack of food. Throughout the year a very careful watch was kept by teachers for any evidence of lack of proper food among the children, and any cases so reported were at once investigated. In only two instances was any direct evidence of food shortage found, and these two families were at once catered for by the Board of Guardians. The Table needs no further comment.

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION, 1922.

Defect or Disease.						Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
						Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation.
(1)						(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	...	...	188	1	...
Uncleanliness :—									
Head	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	47	...
Body	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	13	...
Skin	Ringworm :—								
	Head	...	...	...	...	1	...	123	...
	Body	...	...	...	...	1	...	69	...
	Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	1	39	...
	Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	6	161	...
	Other Diseases (non-Tubercular)	...	...	...	...	...	8	19	...
Eyes	Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	...	12	2	...
	Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	21	...
	Keratitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Corneal Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
	Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
	Defective Vision	...	...	...	...	38	...	...	...
Ear	Squint	...	...	...	...	3	30	...	...
	Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	...
	Defective Hearing	...	...	...	...	2	31	...	...
	Otitis Media	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	20
	Other Ear Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	15	10	...
	Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	...	...	19	41	16	14
Nose and Throat	Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	107

Defect or Disease.					Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
					Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)				
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-Tub.)	33				
Defective Speech...	25	...	1				
Heart & Circulation { Heart Disease :—								
Organic Disease	17	5	...				
Functional „	10	1	...				
Anæmia	60	45	100				
Lungs { Bronchitis	62	10	19				
Other non-Tubercular Disease	2	...	...		
Pulmonary :—								
Definite	2	3	...				
Suspected	6	2	...				
Non-Pulmonary :—								
Tubercle { Glands	3	15	...				
Spine				
Hip				
Other Bones and Joints	3	1	...				
Skin				
Other Forms	2	...	...		
Nervous System { Epilepsy	1	...	2				
Chorea...	3	9	19				
Other Conditions	1	...	7				
Deformities { Rickets	10	...	...		
Spinal Curvature				
Other Forms	5	...	...		
Other Diseases and Defects	89	82	639				
		64	746	779				966

Number of individual children having defects which required treatment or to be kept under observation 2548

Employment of Children, 1922.

CHILDREN REGISTERED FOR EMPLOYMENT DURING THE YEAR 1922.
AFTER SCHOOL HOURS.

EMPLOYED BY :—				Boys.	Girls.	EMPLOYED BY :—				Boys.	Girls.
Butchers	...	...	...	2	—	House Boys and Girls	...	...	4	2
Bakers	...	...	...	9	—	Hosier	...	...	1	—
Bootsalesmen & Repairers...				9	—	Harness Maker	...	...	1	—
Corn Chandlers	...	...	...	2	—	Ironmonger	...	...	1	—
Chemists	...	...	...	5	—	Insurance Superintendent...			1	—
Clothiers	...	...	...	2	—	Laundry	...	...	2	—
Dentists & Doctors...	...	...	...	2	—	Milliners	...	...	3	—
Drapers, &c.	...	...	...	5	—	Newsagents, etc.	...	...	16	—
Dyer	...	...	...	1	—	Photographers	...	...	2	—
Grocers & Provision Mer-						Paint & Varnish Merchant			1	—	
chants	...	...	...	27	—	Straw Hat Manufacturers...			4	—
Greengrocers	...	...	...	17	—				—	—
Glass & China Merchants...				—	1				117	3	
Children employed before School by Newsagents during the year						...	...	...	136	
" " " Milkmen " "						...	...	...	5	
									141		
									258	3	
Total Children employed during 1922						...	...	...	51	
Children registered for employment before School (new cases)						...	...	...	48	
" " " after " "						...	...	...	11	
Licences issued (Street trading)						...	...	...

Children employed before School during 1922	...	...	...	...	...	141
" " after " "	...	...	...	...	...	120
Street trading Licences in use	...	...	...	...	...	27
Infringements noted and warned same time	...	...	...	...	...	120
Warnings <i>re</i> above, by visits	...	...	...	...	...	109
" " letter	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Children examined by School Medical Officer under Bye-Laws...						117
" " rejected " "						2
" " under age						2
" " registration not completed						3
						7
" " registered						110
						<u>117</u>
Prosecutions under Employment of Children Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	...	5
1 case dismissed on promise not to offend again.						
1 case fined 5/- and costs and bound over for 6 months for the sum of £2.						
2 cases fined 2/6.						
1 case fined 10/- (Employer).						
						<u>5</u>

Special School.

In October 1921, the Education Committee, with the consent of the Board of Education, acquired the premises known as "The Briars," and opened them, after alterations, as a school for mentally defective and backward children. In order to make a selection of suitable cases for this school, a complete survey of all known cases of mental deficiency in the Borough was made in October 1921, and about 40 children were selected as suitable. In each case the proper Medical History Form (Form M.) was completed, and the mental age of the children ascertained.

These premises have proved suitable in every way, and with a staff of two teachers and a married couple as caretakers, &c., the school has made good progress.

Some difficulty was experienced at first in persuading parents to allow their children to attend, but this has already disappeared. The children are conveyed to and from the school in special tram cars, under the caretaker's charge, and they remain in the school for the mid-day meal, for which a charge of 3d. per head per day is made. The school is now in full working order, and the accommodation has been fixed by the Board of Education at 45 scholars.

During the year the scholars have been re-examined medically, and also as regards their mental attainments, and in every instance marked progress has resulted. The children appear smarter and brighter, take more interest in their work, and the general physical signs of improvement are manifest. It is hoped that in the near future some of the scholars may be able to be re-transferred to ordinary schools.

Table III sets out, as far as is known, the number of exceptional children of school age in the Borough, classified according to the physical defect under which each child suffers. There are, at the present moment, in the Infants' Departments, about 20 children whose backwardness suggests that it may be necessary to transfer them to the Special School at a later date. These children are being carefully watched by the teachers, and if sufficient progress is not made, they will be dealt with according to the Regulations of the Board of Education, and sent to "The Briars" Special School.

TABLE III. NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA IN 1922.

					Boys	Girls	Total
Blind. (including partially blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893	Attending Public Elementary Schools				...	2	2
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind... ..				...	1	1
	Not at School ... ..				...	...	...
Deaf and Dumb. (Including partially deaf) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893	Attending Public Elementary Schools				1	...	1
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf				2	1	3
	Not at School ... ..				...	...	...
Mentally Deficient—							
Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools				...	...	...
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children				33	18	51
	Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year				1	...	1
Imbeciles	Not at School				7	6	13
	At School ... ..				...	...	...
Idiots	Not at School ... ..				...	...	...
				
Epileptics	Attending Public Elementary Schools				1	1	2
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ... ..				...	...	...
	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..				...	...	...
Physically Defective —	Not at School ... ..				...	...	...
	Attending Public Elementary Schools				...	...	...
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..				...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..				...	...	...
	Not at School				1	2	3
Crippling due to Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools				...	...	...
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..				...	...	...
	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..				...	...	...
Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis, i.e. Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism	Not at School ... ..				...	...	...
	Attending Public Elementary Schools				2	...	2
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..				...	...	...
Other Physical Defectives, e.g. delicate and other children suitable for admission to Open Air Schools; children suffering from severe Heart Disease	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..				...	...	...
	Not at School ... ..				...	...	...
	Attending Public Elementary Schools				...	..	...
Dull and Backward	Attending Open Air Schools ... ..				...	...	...
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children, other than Open Air Schools ... ..				...	...	...
	Not at School ... ..				...	...	...
	Retarded 2 years ... ..				...	...	...
	Retarded 3 years ... ..				...	...	...

Treatment of Defects of Children during 1922.

Table IV. (a), (b), (c) and (d) give particulars of the various ailments discovered. Practically all these cases have been dealt with at the School Clinic. The beneficial results of the Routine Inspection of school children are becoming increasingly evident, and although the standard of cleanliness set is a very high one, cases of uncleanness of head and body are extremely rare. This feature was noted in last year's report, and it is satisfactory to know that the standard is being maintained.

TABLE IV.
(a) Minor Ailments.

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under L.E.A. Scheme.	Otherwise	Total
Skin—Ringworm (head)	123	123	—	123
„ (body)	69	69	—	69
Scabies	39	23	16	39
Impetigo	161	161	—	161
Minor Injuries ...	130	130	—	130
Other Skin diseases	19	10	9	19
Ear disease	60	60	—	60
Eye disease (external and other)	54	54	—	54
Miscellaneous	408	295	113	408
	1063	925	138	1063

(b) Treatment of Visual Defect.

Number of Children—						
Referred for Refraction	...	...	...	...	...	331
Submitted to Refraction—						
Under L.E.A. Scheme, Clinic or Hospital						266
By Private Practitioner or Hospital	...					—
Otherwise ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total... ..	...	...	...	...	...	266
For whom glasses were prescribed	...	...	...	...	...	158
For whom glasses were provided	...	...	...	...	...	144
Recommended for Treatment other than by glasses						54
Received other forms of Treatment	...	...				49
For whom no Treatment was considered necessary						14

(c) Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

No. of Children.				
Referred for Treatment.	Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment.
	Under L.E.A. Scheme, Clinic or Hospital.	By private Practitioner or Hospital.	Total.	
61	34	25	59	—

(d) Treatment of Dental Defects.**I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEALT WITH.**

	Age Groups										"Specials"	Total.
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
(a) Inspected by Dentist	1086	1012	933	891	806	656	473	379	294	78	—	6608
(b) Referred for Treatment	6014										72	6086
(c) Actually Treated ...	2980										36	3016
(d) Re-treated (result of periodical examination)	466										6	472

II.—PARTICULARS OF TIME GIVEN AND OF OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN.

(1) Number of half-days devoted to Inspection	46
(2) Number of half-days devoted to Treatment	370
(3) Total number of attendances made by the Children at the Clinic...	4090
Number of permanent Teeth—	
(4) Extracted... ..	102
(5) Filled	470
Number of Temporary Teeth—	
(6) Extracted	3068
(7) Filled	559
(8) Total number of Fillings	1029
(9) Number of administrations of Local Anæsthetics included in (4) and (6)	3025
Number of Other Operations—	
(10) Permanent Teeth	607
(11) Temporary Teeth	—

(e) Treatment of Uncleanliness.

(a) The average number of visits per annum made by the School Nurses to each school	8
(b) The total number of examinations made of children by School Nurses	20731
(c) The number of individual children found unclean	2175

The Clinic.

As in former years, the School Medical Officer has been in attendance at the School Clinic on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings during the School Sessions, for the purpose of examining, and where necessary, prescribing for ailing children sent down by Parents, Teachers, Attendance Officers or the School Nurses. Cases requiring special treatment are referred to the private doctor concerned, but many cases of minor ailments are treated on the spot, and much benefit results.

During the year, 1,738 children attended the Clinic and made 5,909 visits, an average of 3·4 visits per child. A special card is made out for each child, and after each session these cards are passed to the Attendance Officer, who is thereby conversant with the children attending, and the complaint discovered. The column for remarks is filled in with the duration of the child's absence, and on completion of the treatment the card is marked "fit for school."

In addition to the above attendances, cases of ringworm, discharging ears, impetigo, scabies, &c., attend in batches in the forenoon for special treatment.

TABLE V.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF DEFECTS AS SHOWN IN TABLE IV.
(a), (b), (c), (d) & (f) but excluding (e).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under L.E.A. Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Minor Ailments	1063	925	138	1063
Visual Defects	331	266	—	266
Defects of Nose and Throat	59	34	25	59
Dental Defects	6086	3016	—	3016
Other Defects	675	675	—	675
	8214	4916	163	5079

School Attendance Acts and School Byelaws.

Attendance Orders, Education Authority to pay costs ...	...	24
Defendant to pay costs ...	...	8
Fined 10/- including costs ...	...	2
5/-	...	1
Conditional fine of 5/-	...	3
10/-	...	2
Adjournment withdrawn upon making full attendance	...	1
Adjourned two months (Adjournment expires Feb. 3rd, 1923)		1
		<hr/> 42

School Nurses.

Two fully qualified Nurses have devoted their whole time to the medical work in connection with the Routine Inspection, the School Clinic, and the Oculist and Dentist. One Nurse is always on duty at the School Clinic to attend to minor ailments, dressings, &c., while the other attends the various schools to assist the School Medical Officer, the School Dentist, and the Oculist. This Nurse, during the afternoons visits the houses of children who require to be "followed up." The Table below sets out the number of such "following up" visits and the reason therefor, during the year.

Home Visits, 1922.

Verminous Heads	...	...	55	Verminous Clothing	...	...	4
Sore throat...	...	...	4	Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	17
Unclean Habits	...	...	4				
Verminous Bodies	...	...	4			Total	...
Impetigo	...	...	7				207
Eye (Clinic)	...	...	98	Heads examined	...	...	20731
Rheumatism	...	...	1	Living Vermin	...	...	155
Various	...	...	12	Many Nits	...	...	535
Measles	...	...	1	With few Nits	...	...	1485

In addition to this number, 511 visits were paid to school classes to re-examine children who had attended the Clinic.

Uncleanliness.

The marked improvement noted in previous years has continued, and cases of neglect have been extremely rare.

The School Nurses have visited each school on an average twice each quarter, and have systematically examined the children with regard to cleanliness of head and body. 20,731 children were so examined during the year, and the following Table gives the result of these examinations.

Number Examined.	Number with living vermin.	With nits.	Total verminous.
20,731	155	2,020	2,175
Percentage	·7%	9·82%	10·5%

A cleansing station is provided at the School Clinic, for the treatment of verminous cases. This has not been required during the year.

The concluding Table (Table VI.) gives in the form of a summary the number of children medically inspected at the Routine Inspection during the year 1922.

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY RELATING TO CHILDREN MEDICALLY INSPECTED AT THE ROUTINE INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1922.

(1)	The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspections	...	2369
(2)	The number of children in (1) suffering from—		
	Malnutrition	...	188
	Skin disease	...	18
	Defective vision (including squint)	...	279
	Eye disease	...	17
	Defective hearing	...	31
	Ear disease	...	15
	Nose and Throat disease	...	611
	Enlarged cervical glands (non-tubercular)	...	—
	Defective speech	...	25
	Dental disease	...	1964
	Heart disease, Organic	...	17
	„ Functional	...	10
	Anæmia	...	60
	Lung disease (non-tubercular)	...	64
	Tuberculosis—		
	Pulmonary, Definite	...	2
	„ Suspected	...	6
	Non-Pulmonary	...	8
	Disease of nervous system	...	5
	Deformities	...	5
	Other defects and diseases	...	89
(3)	The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	...	628
(4)	The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.)	...	136
(5)	The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.)	...	87

